

Alaska State Legislature Senator Kevin Meyer

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Senator Meyer's Legislation to Create Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Passes Legislature

JUNEAU – The Alaska House of Representatives Tuesday unanimously passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 12, establishing "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Day" (FASD) on September 9, 2010. FASD Awareness Day would be observed by promoting the awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol.

"FASD is a devastating problem in Alaska," said Senator Kevin Meyer, R-Anchorage, the prime sponsor of the resolution. "I am pleased that my colleagues in both the House and Senate understand the importance of drawing attention to this issue by giving their unanimous support."

Caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol, which can result in permanent brain damage, birth defects, learning disabilities, behavioral problems and, most tragically, the loss of individual potential, FASD is an entirely preventable condition.

FASD Awareness Day is observed internationally on September 9th, as a reminder on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol.

"I hope that passage of this resolution will remind Alaskans that this is a totally preventable condition," Senator Meyer added. "With hard work, increased awareness and education, we can turn the tide on FASD."

Senator Meyer credited Representative Bob Herron, D-Bethel, for his work in getting SCR 12 passed by the House of Representatives.

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(For more information, contact Senator Meyer or Christine Marasigan 907-465-4945.)